

Remarks

The Office Action dated October 25, 2007 has been carefully reviewed and the following remarks have been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 5-19 and 25-28 are now pending in this application. Claims 13-16, 27 and 28 were withdrawn from consideration by the examiner. Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

Applicants traverse the suggestion at page 2 of the Office Action that the claims contain subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants disagree with the suggestion at page 2 of the Office Action that the disclosure does not provide any support for the base grid 84 being vertically aligned with the pressure vessel.

Also, Applicants traverse the suggestion at page 3 of the Office Action that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Applicants disagree with the suggestion at page 3 of the Office Action that there is neither an adequate description nor enabling disclosure of the species of a base grid 84 being vertically aligned with the pressure vessel.

Applicants respectfully submit that Figure 1 clearly shows core catcher 80 positioned below and vertically aligned with pressure vessel 12. Paragraph 14 describes that "[c]ore catcher 80 is positioned proximate a basemat 82 of PCV 22 in a lower region of drywell 24." As described in paragraph 10, wall 28 extends vertically from basemat 82 and separates drywell 24 from suppression pool 30. Figure 1 clearly shows that core catcher 80 is positioned between

basemat 82 and pressure vessel within drywell 24 bounded by wall 28. Paragraph 15 describes "[f]igure 2 is a schematic side view of one embodiment of core catcher 80. Core catcher 80 includes a base grid 84 disposed below the pressure vessel 12 and spaced vertically above basemat 82 of PCV 22 to define a gap or sump 86 therebetween. Drywell wall 28 laterally bounds base grid 84 and sump 86." Figure 2 clearly shows base grid 84 positioned vertically above basemat 82 within drywell 24 and bounded by wall 28. Because Figure 1 shows core catcher 80 positioned below and vertically aligned with pressure vessel, Applicants submit that Figure 1 inherently shows base grid 84 positioned below and vertically aligned with pressure vessel 12. Further, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art reading the application, including the figures, would understand that that Figure 2 shows base grid 84, which is an element of core catcher 80, positioned below and vertically aligned with pressure vessel 12. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 and the specification, including the figures, meet all the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph. Specifically, Applicants submit that the specification contains a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable one skilled in the art to make and use the invention.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that at least for the reasons set forth above, the claims are consistent with the specification, including the figures, in regard to the alignment of base grid 84 relative to the pressure vessel. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present claims are definite and

particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of Claims 5-12, 17-19, 25 and 26 be withdrawn.

The objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that at least for the reasons set forth above, the drawings show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Particularly, Applicants submit that the drawings show that base grid 84 is disposed below and vertically aligned with pressure vessel 12 and spaced vertically above floor 82 of containment vessel 22.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Rule 1.83(a) objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Tersillo", written over a horizontal line.

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